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Remarks

Claims 11, 35-36, and 47-50 were objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner noted that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant cancelled claims 1-13 and 33-57 and substituted new claims 58-101. Applicant believes that the cancelled claims are patentable, but has cancelled them because new claims 58-101 provide more clarity than would amendment of claims 1-13 and 33-57 to overcome the Examiner's objections.

New claims 58, 69, 81, 92, and 93 are independent claims. Claims 59-68 depend upon claim 58. Claims 70-80 depend upon claim 69. Claims 82-91 depend upon claim 81. Claims 93-101 depend upon claim 92. Claim 92 is a new method claim.

New claim 58 includes all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 10 and 11. New claim 69 includes all of the limitations of base claim 33 and intervening claims 34-36. New claim 81 includes all of the limitations of base claim 33 and intervening claims 34-36 and 47. New claim 92 includes all of the limitations of base claim 33 and intervening claims 34-36 and 47-50.

Applicant believes that new independent claims 58, 69, 81, and 92 have overcome the Examiner's objections and are in a condition for allowance. Applicant also believes that the claims dependent on respective independent claims 58, 69, 81, and 92 are in a condition for allowance. Method claim 93 and its dependent claims are likewise in a condition for allowance since the steps of claim 93 embody the gist of the elements found in claims 58, 69, 81, and 92.

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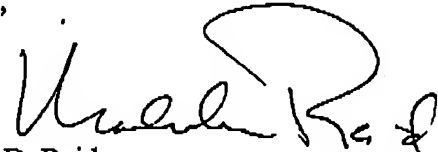
Conclusion

Applicant has read and considered the Office Action mailed March 28, 2007 and the references cited therein.

Applicant is of the opinion that all of the new claims are in a condition for allowance.

A speedy and favorable action on the merits is solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact applicant's representative at 612/632-3304.

Sincerely,



Malcolm D. Reid
Registration No. 27,065
Attorney for Applicant
612-632-3304 (voice)
612-632-4304 (direct fax)
malcolm.reid@gpmlaw.com

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Gray Plant Mooty & Bennett, PA
PO Box 2906
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0906

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